Prima Donna is often a term defined as "a vain or undisciplined person who finds it difficult to work under direction or as part of a team." This is ironic because Morgen, Caitlin, and I worked well as a team to put our magazine together. I believe it has turned out wonderfully, and I hope you think the same way after reading it! Always remember: read Prima Donna; DON'T BE ONE!

Hey...
So Prima Donna pretty much rocks like Pop Rocks. I am satisfied with the final product :) I was privileged to work with co-editors as talented as Cait and Breken. It was FABULOUS! I am really going to miss Gov. School. It was truly a blessing to be a part of something SO GREAT.

This magazine is so FANTASTICAL it's gonna blow your mind! It's pretty much the best thing since LADY GAGA!
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FASHION ARTICLES

featuring
MALLORY NYGARD
KATRINA RUDISEL
DESEREE ROUNDTREE
It cannot be contested that fashion plays an important role in today’s society. From the television to movies to going to school, everywhere we look fashion is present. Even at Governor’s School, fashion influences students’ everyday lives, albeit some more than others. Six students attending Governor’s School for the English program took a survey about fashion in their lives. The results are featured here.

**Question 1: How much time do you spend on appearance every day?**

Answers varied between twenty minutes and over an hour, but the average response centered right around thirty minutes per day spent on appearance.

What does that tell us? The surveyed students like to look their best, even when they have to get to class by eight o’clock in the morning.

**Question 2: What are some of your favorite brands?**

Answers included brands all across the spectrum, from American Eagle to Victoria’s Secret.

What does that tell us? The surveyed students are as diverse as the cities they represent.

**Question 3: Who do you look up to in the world of fashion? Why?**
Answers received from most students did not name one specific person. Instead they listed traits they admired of people in the fashion industry.

What does that tell us? The students surveyed have their own personal style and are proud of it.

**Question 4: How much money a month do you spend on clothes, accessories, etc.?**

Answers raged from about ten dollars to one hundred dollars. All participants agreed that it varies from month to month depending on money available, time, and need.

What does this tell us? The Governor’s School students surveyed are generally thrifty with their money and don’t spend unwisely.

**Question 5: Why do you put effort into your wardrobe?**

Answers included the following reasons: to look presentable/nice; to have a variety of clothing; to be comfortable; to express personality.

What does this tell us? The students put effort into their wardrobe for the same reasons as most people do, to look attractive and feel the best they can.

**Question 6: Where are you from? What stores do you have there?**

Students replied that they came from both small and large towns and the variety of stores corresponded directly to population size.

What does this tell us? The student’s fashion may be affected by the number of stores to shop at or a lack there of.

**Question 7: What is your favorite era regarding fashion?**

Answers spanned most of the years between 1920 and 2010.

What does this tell us? Each era of fashion has a different appeal. History does repeat itself.

**Question 8: Where is your favorite place to shop? Why?**

Participants all said they couldn’t pick just one place. “Pretty much everywhere” was the most common answer.

What does this tell us? The surveyed students probably enjoy shopping at malls more than a singular store because of the variety offered.

This survey was a revealing insight into the fashion of North Dakota Governor’s School students. The results showed just how different everyone is, and yet, how similar. That’s the beauty of fashion.
Why does how we dress affect who we are?
Who we listen to affect how we act?
The people we hang out with affect our choices.
Our favorite actors affect what movies we watch.
The way we talk affects who we talk to.
What we say affects who listens.
Why do we all have an insane need to know what’s going on,
In a world we don’t belong to?
Because we all want to fit in.
In this world we call “fashion and pop culture”.
The Standard Is Set Three Inches Too High

By Katrina Rudisel
Growing up in a testosterone dominated household, I did not have much experience with the fashion world as I was growing up. I wore whatever was in my closet; I went shopping only when I had too. I wore hand-me-downs from my older cousins and never threw clothes away.

Then one day I was introduced to clothing. Clothing that was different from what I usually wore. It was...cute. Ew, what a gross word. Only the "popular" people use that word. Not people like me; people who like books more than boys; people who don’t know the fine art of shopping.
The first time my aunt took me to a mall, I had no idea what to do. I stood looking at all the stores and busy people marching past and felt completely overwhelmed.

“Come on,” my aunt said. “Don’t be scared. It won’t bite.”

Despite her humor, I was completely clueless when it came to picking out a matching shirt and pants combo. Luckily for me, my aunt was patient and kind and by the end of my first shopping excursion, I was finding the appeal of buying new clothes.

Then when I got home I forgot what I felt at the mall. I fell back into the world of army men, cops and robbers, and books. I lost the sensation of … the sensation of purchasing things I didn’t need.

Years past as I was in this state of waiting. I didn’t know what I was waiting for, or who, but I knew I was waiting. I didn’t know how to stop, how to find what I was waiting for. Then along came high school. High school, when everything changed.

As I entered the long awaited high school that first day of freshman year the first thing I noticed were the outfits of all the older girls. They were … cute. There all the memories of that day shoes, swiping the magic credit swinging from my arms. Those memories had been repressed in my mind beneath memories of football games and mud fights. I got the urge, right then and there, to feel that again. I wanted to feel light and free again.
I, however, didn’t get the opportunity to go shopping again for quite some time. In fact, it was months before I saw the inside of another mall. This mall was bigger than the one I remembered. It had stores lined across both walls overflowing with shirts, purses, shoes and every other kind of clothing or accessory imaginable. The caged butterflies in my stomach decided to, at that moment, burst free from their enslavement and explore every inch of my insides.

I think my friends saw the look of almost throwing up and also amazement on my face. They took charge, grabbing my arm and leading me into the first store we came across.

As I walked in the door I smelled peppermint. Peppermint? In a clothing store? Wait, who I am to judge; I haven’t been in a clothing store in years. All around me clothes of every color and style adorned the walls and fake people standing in funny poses throughout the store.

At that moment I had a flash of who I was around my family, the basketball-shorts-wearing-one-of-the-boys-acting person. I had to get out of there. What was I thinking? I didn’t wear dresses! Not on my life would you catch me in a pair of heels. That wasn’t who I was. Was it? I took a deep breath. Maybe it’s not who I am now. Maybe, though, it’s someone I could...become.

Maybe that’s what fashion is all about. Becoming. Becoming who we want to be. The clothes, purses, shoes all facilitate that transformation. It’s like a caterpillar. It uses a cocoon to make that metamorphosis into the beautiful butterfly. I was a caterpillar, waiting. I didn’t know I was waiting to become a butterfly, but lo and behold I look in the mirror and think this is who I am, a butterfly.
MUSIC

featuring...

EMMA
MILLS SPAUGH

KELEY DRAYTON

KATRINA RUDISEL
SELL OUT!

By Emma Millsparaugh

I’m sure anyone who listens to any amount of underground, “indie” music has heard the term “sellout” before. This term in modern usage refers to a performer or group of performers who conform to what one may call “standards” set by music trends made popular by the masses of our country’s consumers. These standards change as trends change in popular music, and they are different between genres of music. Ones that tend to be universal throughout time, genre, etc. include simple, radio-friendly melodies, rhythms to which the listener can dance, and lyrics with which the listener can easily identify and sing along. Another rather common trend is the self-portrayal of the performer(s) as living a superior lifestyle. Lyrics, music videos, and everything else that make up image depict this. In country music videos, we see men driving their “sexy” tractors, going home to their attractive cowgirl housewives and their kids in 4-H club, carrying firearms, drinking beer, and other things that are glorified in the country lifestyle. Rap videos depict the performers as constantly clubbing, drinking, having sex, committing crimes, driving expensive cars and owning various other expensive possessions, and everything else that encompasses the lifestyle that this genre of music represents. Rock videos depict a corresponding lifestyle of sex, drugs, and money, and any other genre one could name will more than likely show similar examples of its lifestyle’s superior qualities in its music videos and overall image.

Sex is yet another constant trend. Sex appeal is often considered marketing’s most powerful tool, and the marketing of music is clearly no exception. Women in music videos of male performers are almost invariably sexually attractive to the typical viewer, and often they are there solely as sex objects, wearing minimal clothing and appearing as possessions of the performer(s). For a woman to make it as a performer, she rarely can do this without objectifying herself.

Music itself is an extremely useful marketing tool. Catchy rhythms inhabit themselves in the heads of consumers, even after a first time listen. Therefore, it seems obvious that music itself easily makes a multi-billion dollar product. Many see this as wrong; music is an art form; independent artists depend on it, and the fact that they can’t make it as well as those who conform to common trends feels belittling. But is it really wrong? Is it wrong to build up a person, purchase the lyrics and rhythms of songwriters, and create the ideal modern product? It may not be right or wrong, but let’s look at its positives and negatives.
SELL OUT!

Often, I believe it is wrong. Placing a person on such a pedestal provides a role model for young people. Let’s use Miley Cyrus as an example. She began as a modest teenager on Disney Channel, with young girls everywhere admiring her. However, her selfish desire to ditch the innocent image for which Disney constantly strives for and instead flaunt her sexuality provides a distorted, negative image to the young girls who want to be like her. And as previously said, other women in music flaunt their sexualities from the beginning, implying that this is something women must do in order to amount to something. As well as these controversies, what about the artists who make music because of a rare passion for creativity, for self expression? To many of these people, the fact that their art is undermined by the fakeness of most mainstream music belittling to their gifts and insulting to music as an art form.

These controversies aside, however, is it always wrong to sell out? Is it always wrong to combine a person with an image and some generic music and market this? If we could build a positive role model and use music to bring the attention of young girls and boys to this image, what would be so wrong with that? Children and preteens need role models, at the age when something like this would catch their attention, other than their parents, because it is at this point when they begin to look away from their parents as models, but they likely won’t be turning to underground musicians, so is it really wrong to give them something generic and simple that’s easy to look up to? A real musician may be insulted by this virtually artificial music, but at least it is made accessible to kids. As well as this, what about artists who start out struggling and need only to make slight changes to their music to acquire a record deal? It’s easy to point fingers at artists who change their personal art to conform to popular standards, but what should artists do when they have families to feed and only small changes are necessary to make enough money to do this? What about artists with a message? Shouldn’t these artists do what they can to ensure that their music reaches as many ears as possible? If you were an artist, wouldn’t you want to be successful? To be able to care for your loved ones? To touch as many people as you can with your art? Is it really so wrong only to make slight changes in order to do this? Is it wrong to be radio-friendly?

And the never-ending debate continues.
All In a Song

By Kelsey Drayton

Music is a reflection of one’s life. The music a person likes will usually reflect the way that person lives and feels about their surroundings. Music can also be interpreted in different ways for different people. Everything depends how a person will feel at a particular moment. The Beatles have written multiple songs that can be interpreted in a variety of ways. “Eleanor Rigby,” “Hey Jude,” and “Blackbird” are three songs I have found meaning in and decided find a slightly deeper meaning than just the normal top coating that everyone gets.

“Eleanor Rigby” is about the lonely lives people truly lead. In the line “Father McKenzie writing the words of a sermon that no one will hear. No one comes near,” you can probably infer that people were at the sermon, but no one really cares about the sermon, or Father McKenzie. There are many times in any one person’s life when they can be in a room full of people, but feel totally alone. “Eleanor Rigby” defines the struggle people go through to make something of themselves before they die. Most of the time a person isn’t going to want to die knowing they didn’t impact at least one person’s life.

“Hey Jude” is a song about allowing people to get close to you and letting yourself get close to other people. The song is also about a person being the best at anything that person will do. It’s almost saying, “Embrace the world you live in and make the most of everything.” “Hey Jude” is the song that is trying to get rid of all the Negative Nancies of the world. The song is trying to lift the spirits of the world; it could be because of the war going on in the 60s and it can even apply to the war going on now. This song is saying no matter what, everything, even a bad situation, can have a positive outcome; you just have to find it.

“Blackbird” talks about losing all of your inhibitions and going for whatever it is you want to go for. A line in the song is “You were only waiting for this moment to arise.” Basically the song is saying, “You’ve been waiting for this, so just go for it.” The song is also about taking that first step into the unknown and being excited about it. When we were preparing for our last choir concert of the year the seniors got together to pick a song. Right away I thought “Blackbird” would be really good because of the message it sends. They chose “Lean on Me,” which is a good choice as well, but I thought that “Blackbird” is a peaceful song that would send the class off with our best wishes. Since I’m going to be a senior this year, “Blackbird” has sort of become my theme song because I don’t want to hold back and miss out on a year that could be one of the best in my life.

The Beatles write about a plethora of things, anything from being alone to going for your dreams. Their songs can even be applied in today’s world. The ones I chose are a few that will almost always be effective in some way or another to somebody out in the world. The Beatles have spoken to so many with their music and they will live on because of it.
Hey, My Puppy

By Katrina Rudisel

(To the tune of Hey, Soul Sister by Train)

Hey hey, Hey-eye-eye-eye-eye.

Your furry butt is the first thing I see in the morn.
You know I wouldn't forget you, but still you make sure I'm awake at six.
Your smelly breath makes me gag and wish that I wasn't ever born.
I knew when we collided, you're the one I had decided, the one I would take.
Hey My Puppy, I bought a brand new doggy bed for you, so,
Don't you know, this bed's for me so you should go.
Hey, My Puppy, I don't want you chewing on my new slippers...ever.
Hey hey, Hey-eye-eye-eye-eye. Hey-eye-eye-eye-eye.

Just in time, to let you out before you go on my floor.
You give my life turmoil, a headache brought to boil, you can't deny.
I must confess, I love you despite all of my constant distress.
I believe that you, like therapy, you're good for me, and I'm always gonna wanna care for you.

Hey My Puppy, it ain't that I like yelling at you so, although,
Don't you know, you're mine and I will love you so.

Hey My Puppy, I don't want to scold so sleep with mejust for...tonight.

The way you slip on the floor, walking you's so funny I can't breathe.
You're a cutie, I'm so glad, you're the only one I'm living with.

You see, I can be happy now finally, even if you ruined my rug,
I'll clean it later, no big deal. For you.

Hey my puppy, let's be best friends the way that nature said to,
Me and you, let's tell our old hatred adieu.

Hey, My Puppy, I don't want to ever let you leave my side ever.

Hey Hey, Hey-eye-eye-eye-eye.

Hey hey, Hey-eye-eye-eye-eye, Hey-eye-eye-eye-eye, Ever.

Hey hey, Hey-eye-eye-eye-eye, Hey-eye-eye-eye-eye.

Ever.
Literature

The Influence of Twilight on Adolescent Girls
Sarah Greene

Analysis of "Cinderella"
Hope Erickson
Analysis of "Cinderella"

By Hope Erickson

Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo. There you are—a princess fit for fairy tales. I wish I had a fairy godmother that could turn me into a princess with three little words. Oh, well. All the more power to Cinderella. “Cinderella” is one of the most famous of Walt Disney’s works and in June 2008, it was ranked #9 on the American Film Institute’s list of the 10 greatest films in the genre “Animation.” It’s the classical story of boy meets girl, boy falls in love with girl, and they live happily ever after. However, there is the problem of the evil stepmother and stepsisters. Cinderella is oppressed in her own home. There are underlying details that many children do not notice or understand. “Cinderella” is practically based on feminism and Marxism.

From the feminist point of view, the stepmother and her daughters have taken over the house. The women are not just superior over the servants, but over Cinderella as well. Many people might think that the oppression of females is only male related. Others may think that feminism involves striving to be equal. In this case, that is not true. Cinderella is being treated like a servant by her female relatives. There is also a time when Cinderella has a ball gown and her stepsisters Anastasia and Drizella tear it apart. So now she is not only being put down, but her belongings are being destroyed. Her stepfamily is not equal with her because they are female, they are dominant over her.

The importance of class is also evident in this movie. The race to win the prince’s heart is part of the problem in Cinderella’s home. Drizella and Anastasia, work Cinderella to tears to keep her from meeting the prince. They even started fighting with each other over who would marry the prince. Marrying above their status was imperative because it would raise their social and wealth status. The prince, however, is not a person who cares about class. He found the woman of his dreams and he doesn’t care if she’s a peasant or a princess. He knows Cinderella is the one for him.

Looking at “Cinderella” through a feminist and Marxist lens is intriguing. They go hand in hand. The oppression in the home is mostly because of the effort to climb the social ladder. In the end, though, the Marxist way of life triumphs.
The Influence of Twilight on Adolescent Girls

By Sarah Greene

The ever popular Twilight Saga has infected millions of teen girls across the world. From its meager beginnings as the debut novel of a Mormon housewife in Utah, Twilight has turned into an international phenomenon. Females of all ages from elementary school girls to middle-aged women have read the series. Avid Twilight lovers have practically grown into a cult. To each their own, as they say, but problems can be found when one takes the time to further explore the epidemic that is Twilight. What affects does this new cult have on the development of young girls, who are being exposed to the series at such a young age? In this essay, I will be exploring just that. What sort of an influence are these poorly written romance novels having on elementary school girls, who have yet to experience what “being a girl” in this world is really like for themselves?

To begin with, the character of Bella Swan is absolutely the worst female protagonist to allow your child to read about and of course, as a result “want to be just like her.” Elementary school girls are young and impressionable. They simply want to be like their favorite fictional characters because they are still so innocent and inexperienced and have yet to develop their own personal identities. They have no idea that they are slowly being brainwashed by the media. It’s true that at the beginning of the first novel of The Twilight Saga, entitled Twilight, Bella seemed like a nice, wholesome girl. She read classic novels for fun in her free time, cooked and cleaned for her daddy (conforming quite nicely to the expectations of “gender roles” – don’t think we ever read about her lawn mowing endeavors) like a good girl, and continued to be one all up until The Boy showed up. Sparkly vampire or not, a boy is just a boy. History has illustrated many instances for us in which The Girl does stupid things because of The Boy she likes (or loves). This concept goes both ways, although females with our “sensitive feminine natures” tend to be more receptive to this “doing of stupid things” syndrome. And so, Bella starts doing stupid things cause of The
[sparkly] Boy once she becomes infatuated with him (note: I did not say “Once she falls in love” as there is a difference).

This book is teaching poor young girls that it is OK to drop everything and all your goals, dreams, and ambitions for a boy; to make a boy your entire life, so that if he leaves you, he takes your life, your very spirit with him. When Edward leaves Bella in the second book, New Moon, “for her own good,” he should have stayed gone! But instead, she becomes an adrenaline junkie and does dangerous stupid things just to induce visions of him in her head ... can you say schizophrenia? And most importantly, not healthy.

The problem with this series lies in the character of Bella herself. She is chronically dependent and that’s all there is to it. From Edward Cullen to Jacob Black later on in the series, this girl has some issues! (Issues that may have been developing over time beneath the surface as a result of an absentee father figure.) Young girls need to learn how to be independent in this “dog eat dog” world we live in. Bella Swan is a transparent and predictable character. She is an “every girl” who possesses some good qualities like loyalty and fighting for the ones she loves, like her family, but she has no mind of her own what so ever. She is so completely obsessed with her vampire lover that she loses all rational thought and any goals or ambitions that she may or may not have possessed at some pre-Edward time! She refuses to go to college because she doesn’t want to get any older than her sparkly boyfriend, before he turns her into a vampire.

There is love and then there are unhealthy addictions. Bella has no idea how to be her own person after Edward comes into her life and literally takes it over. Young adult literature should not be telling girls that it is okay to become completely - mentally, physically, emotionally - dependent on someone they “love,” especially not a 17-year-old boy, vampire or not. True strength lies within yourself and no one else. So many young girls have been hurt by love because teenage boys are so unbelievably fickle, and who is to say that they all change for the better as they age? At some point in time everyone has to go through those post-break up rough patches, but the difference between how we should be and what Bella does is that we have to persevere through the hard times and not waste our lives away, withering into nothing because the person we love has left us. A result like that could not have stemmed from any sort of healthy relationship, nor is it the definition of true love. To all the young girls out there: be your own person. You don’t need a man to define you. Follow your dreams and do what makes you happy. That special guy for you, the one will treat you like an equal and admire your independence (no one likes a needy girl!) and ambitions, is out there somewhere; and if it’s meant to be, he will find you. Guaranteed.
ENTERTAINMENT

Presenting...

Sage Nichols

Brianna Vance

Sarah Greene
Avatar
Through A Post-Colonial Lens

Regarding particular characters, there are many almost direct correlations. John Smith and Jake Sully both happen to be the "brown" of the operation and fall in love with the native girl (also note their same initials). Eyetukan is the father of Neytiri and chief of the Omaticaya clan of Pandora while Chief Powhatan is the father of Pocahontas and chief of their tribe. Tsu' Tate from Avatar who is Neytiri's future mate is parallel to Kocoum, the guy that Pocahontas is supposed to marry (they are also both warriors). Governor Ratcliffe can be compared to "company man," Parker Selfridge. As the Chief Administrator for RDA, he is in charge of "all the mining operations on the planet and determined not the let the "natives" stand in his way. He'd like to use diplomacy—largely because it looks better from a PR standpoint— but is prepared to use force if necessary. (IMDB) His actions and orders directly result in the ignorant, money hungry perception the Na’vi have of the humans.

There are many direct quotations from the movie that further illustrate the precarious relationship between the Na’vi and the RDA; the "colonized" and the "colonizer." The RDA views the Na’vi as an inferior race— the degrading language of Selfridge when he is speaking to Dr. Grace Anderson (the head of the scientific operations of RDA) says it all.

"… You're supposed to be winning the hearts and minds of the natives. Isn't that the whole point of your little puppet show? You look like them and you talk like them and they'll start trusting us. We build them a school, we teach them English, but after what? How many years? Relations with the indigenous are only getting worse."

He later refers to the Na’vi as "blue monkeys"; a derogatory term which is a racist term used towards African-Americans, minus the "blue."

Continued...
Avatar

Through A Post-Colonial Lens

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He later refers to the Na’vi as “blue monkeys”; a derogatory term which is a racist term used towards African-Americans, minus the “blue.”

Continued...
"Killing the indigenous looks bad, but there's one thing shareholders hate more than bad press—bad quarterly statement..."

All Selfridge and RDA care about is their image. They have no regard for the life of the Na’vi. The only thing in their sight is a means to achieve their ends; and they do so by using the Avatar bodies to appeal to the Omaticaya clan from a sympathetic standpoint. They use Jake to get on the inside, learn their way of life, and report everything back to them. He is their spy who eventually turns rogue. Tsu’Tey calls Sully an "alien," emphasizing the idea of the Other, while humans refer to the Na’vi as aliens and Pandora as their alien planet. Colonel Miles Quaritch strengthens the human's negative view of the Na’vi "Others" when he says to Sully, "I want you to learn these savages from the inside, I want you to gain their trust. I need to know how to force their cooperation or hammer them hard if they won’t." The RDA and their brutal soldiers will stop at nothing to get what they want.

An article written in Psychology Today by Mikhail Lyubansky, Ph.D. entitled "Racial Politics in Avatar" poses the question of whether or not Avatar is "just another 'white savior' film." In the film's defense, Dr. Lyubansky states that "the most common critique of Avatar is that it patronizes the racial other." He counters this critique with the idea that because of Jake's status as an avatar through most of the film, he can be considered as biracial—a mix of Na’vi and human—so not a solely "white" savior. But the question still stands; does Avatar really deserve all praise it has received as it is so "socio-politically flawed" and not to mention contains such strong parallels to a simple children's Disney movie? What it all comes down to is a question of screenplay versus visual effects.

It is not a secret that humanity today is a purely visual culture; so in my personal opinion, I believe that the monumental Avatar won has received so much praise and recognition due to nothing more than the brilliance of its cinematography.
Avatar

Through A Post-Colonial Lens

Works Cited:


“Dollhouse” is a modernized version of Henrik Ibsen’s play “The Doll’s House”. It is a story of a woman, Nora, who has secretly borrowed money for her husband’s rehab. When the lender comes to collect, she doesn’t have the money and he threatens to cut the secret of the rehab. The story is filled with lies, deception, and turmoil. At the end of the story, Nora leaves, and then comes back due to the fact that she has no money.

From a feminism point of view, the idea of a stereotypical woman is portrayed. Nora is shown as a money squanderer and a rapid-minded person. She is a stay at home mom, and is now trying to find a way to pay back her loan. Because she was using her ATM card to repay the money, her husband takes the card away and allot her an allowance on her credit card.

Nora is a needy person. She tries to cover up her mistakes by lying and deceiving. Her mistakes, by both borrowing the money and trying to hide the loan, cause shifts to form between different relationships that she has. She is also somewhat submissive. Her husband, Terry, is very different from Nora. He feels the need to be in control. He is very demanding at times, and is somewhat vulgar in his speech.

The “Dollhouse” play was a very interesting and amusing event to go to. I enjoyed seeing it, and I want to see another play very soon.
Identity Crisis, USA

By Sage Nichols

In this day and age of media and technology, we are bombarded with everyone else’s lives whether we realize it or not. As a society we seem to be more interested in other people’s lives rather than our own. By numbing ourselves to the outside world with mindless TV surfing and Facebook updates are we forgetting what is really important in our lives? And are we slowly losing the ability to think for ourselves or is this just the stage in our own human evolution?

Hollywood, the epitome of American beauty, fame, and fortune; which is exactly what everyone thinks they want in life. Who wouldn’t want to be in the know about Brad and Angelina’s next Third World adoption, Lindsay Lohan’s next drug relapse, if recycling is in or out, or maybe if Britney Spears will have another meltdown? That’s what America has become, we live through the lives of those that have the life that we wish had. The shorter version; we want what we can’t have. As a society we want security through the perfect life; a perfect wife/husband, the perfect children, the perfect house. It’s the American Dream. Producers play off those desires and make the most appealing shows to those people, usually involving beautiful actors/actresses with wonderful lives. America’s love the glamour that the media has set before us and we fall for it time and time again.

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Facebook, MySpace, YouTube...what do all these websites have in common? They are all outlets to put your life on center stage. How many times do you go and check your Facebook account? Uh, that’s what I thought. Teenagers are more obsessed with the virtual world than the real one. People can argue and say it’s a good way to stay in touch with people, but when we should be bettering ourselves we have instead been bettering our Facebook status. As a Facebook user myself I see how it affects me personally. When I could be doing something more useful with my time, I see myself checking the Internet to see what’s new. I’m “friends” with my mom and stepfather and also my siblings on Facebook when I see them almost every day. I am not putting down technology and our advances, but when do we say enough is enough?

Are we at a standstill in our own human development? We as humans are always trying to create the next best thing. What will be on the market in 10 years, 50 years, or 100 years? The possibilities are mind-blowing.

Slowly as a nation we are being overcome by the mass media and to lose our own identity in the coming years and just become one of the many consumers could cause serious unknown problems. We must stay true to ourselves and remember what’s important.